

No. 775,543.

PATENTED NOV. 22, 1904.

J. N. NUTT.  
LETTER BOX.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 25, 1904.

NO MODEL.

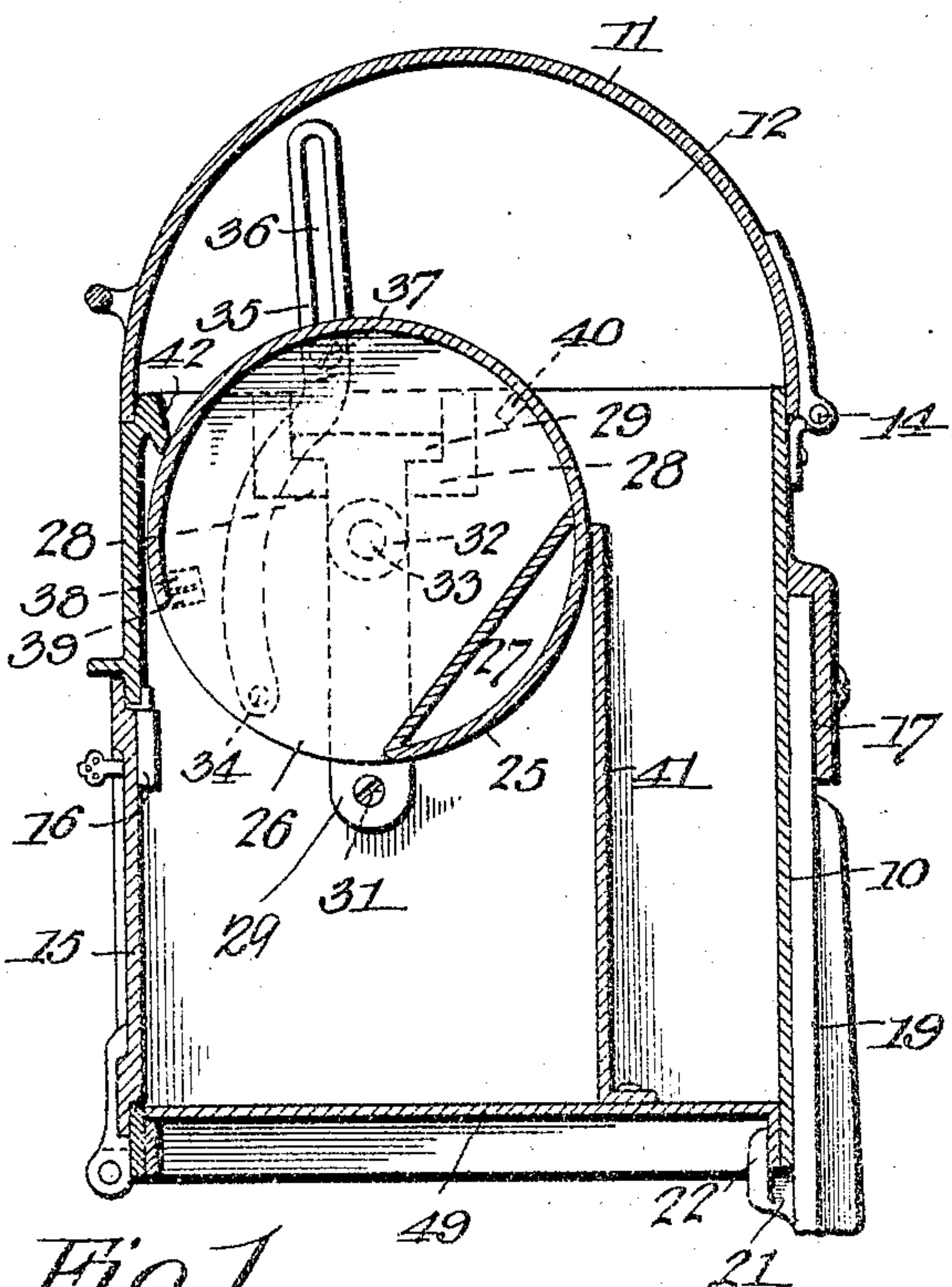


Fig. 1.

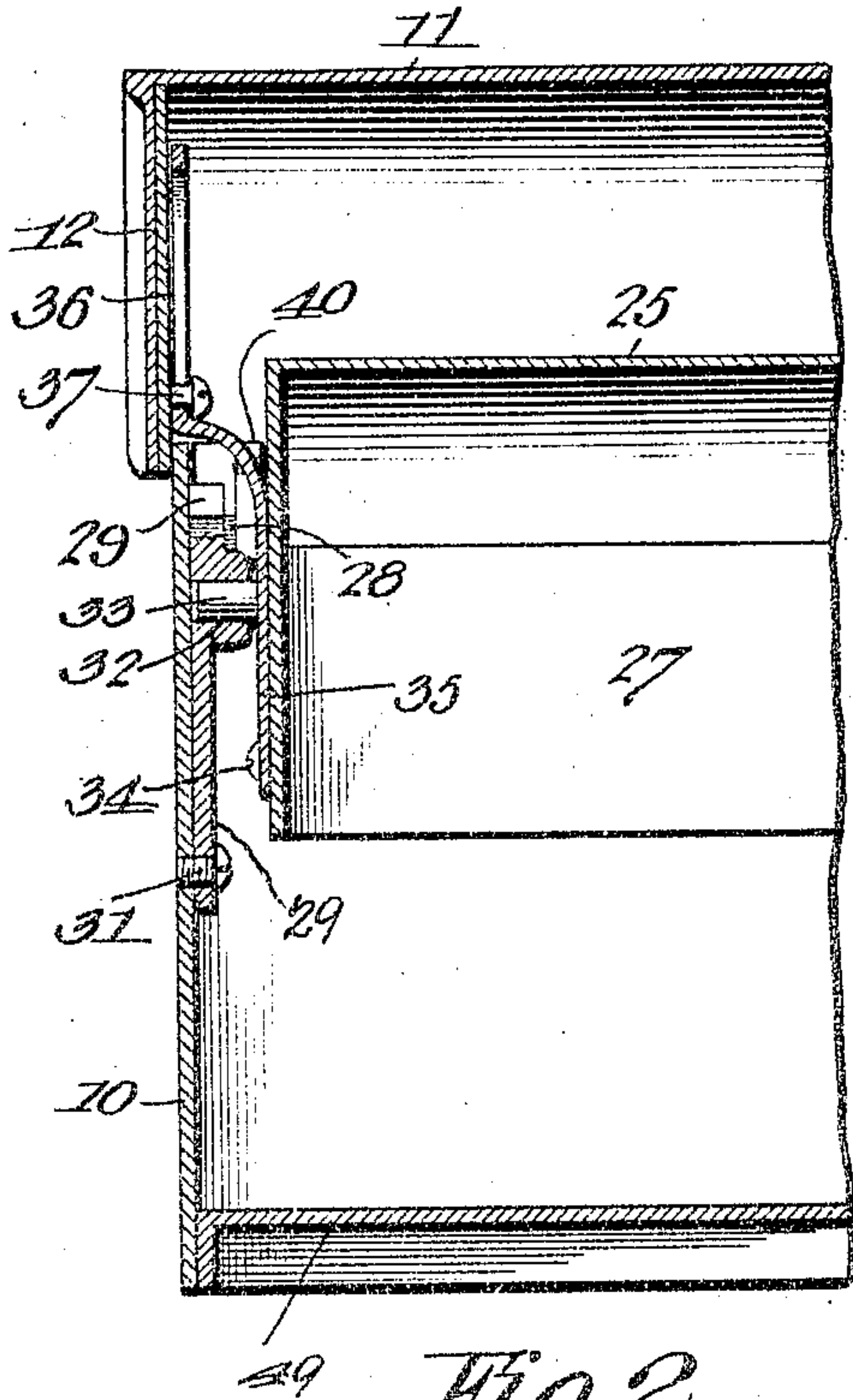


Fig. 2.

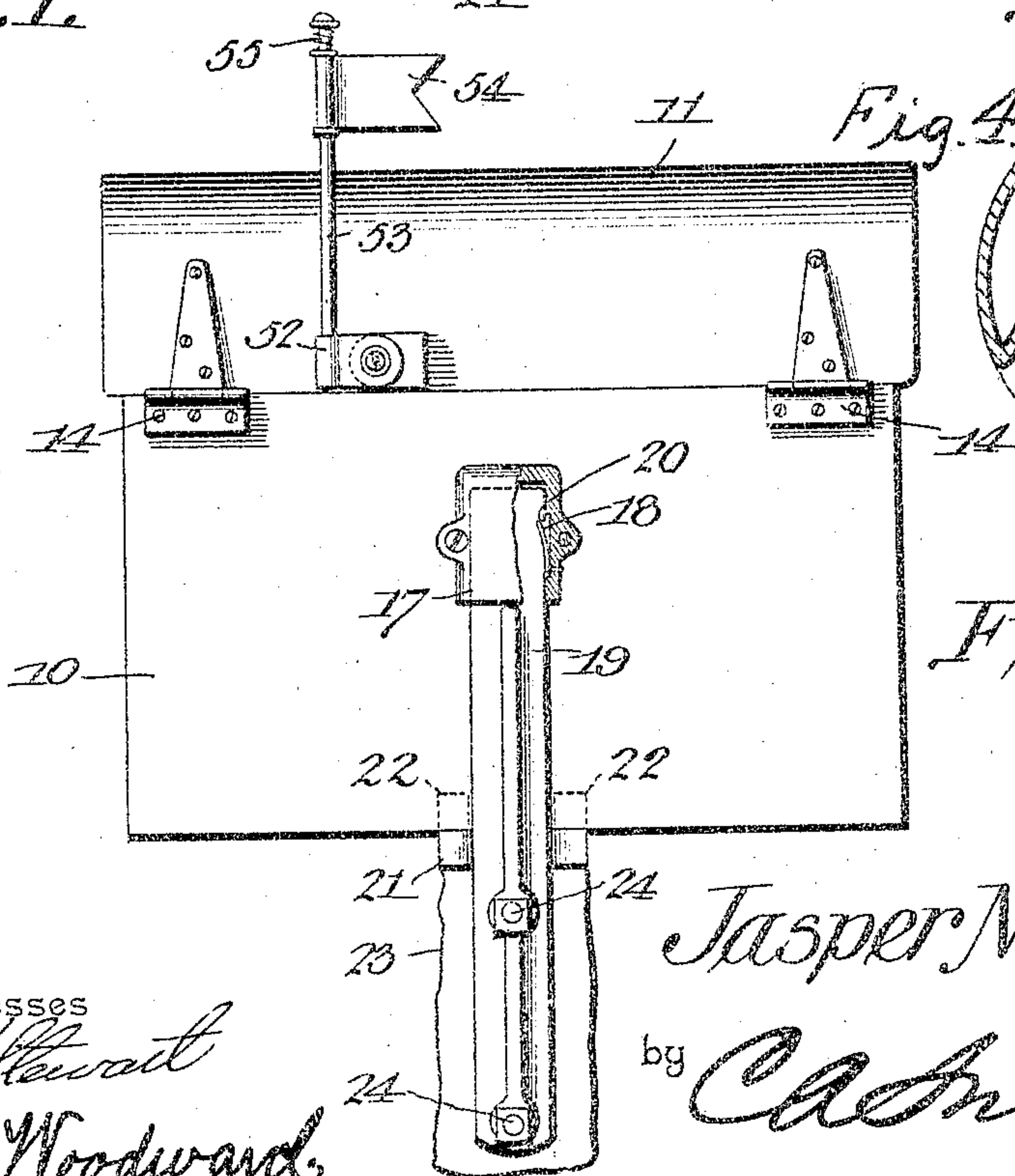
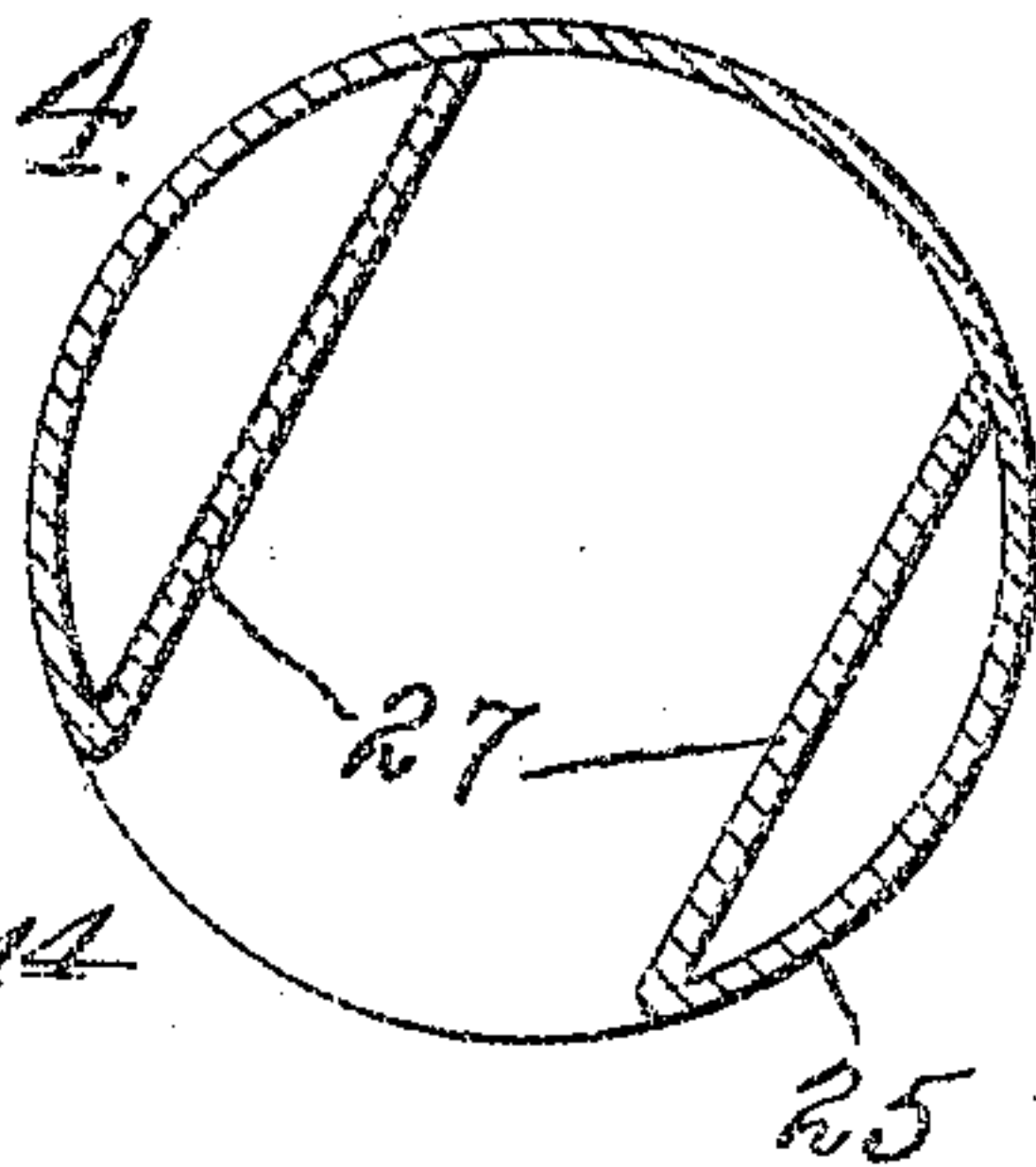


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JASPER N. NUTT, OF SIDNEY, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO GIDEON E. CYPHERS, OF SIDNEY, OHIO.

## LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 775,543, dated November 22, 1904.

Application filed April 25, 1904. Serial No. 204,850. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JASPER N. NUTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sidney, in the county of Shelby and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Letter-Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in letter-boxes, more particularly to those employed by individuals for receiving mail-matter from the carriers and which may also be employed for depositing mail-matter to be collected by the carriers, and has for its object to improve the construction and produce a device of this character inexpensive to manufacture, strong and durable, and which not only effectually protects the contents from access by unauthorized persons, but likewise protects the mail-matter from dampness, dust, and the like.

With these and other objects in view, which will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in certain novel features of construction, as hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which corresponding parts are denoted by like designating characters, is illustrated the preferred form of the embodiment of the invention capable of carrying the same into practical operation, it being understood that the invention is not necessarily limited thereto, as various changes in the shape, proportions, and general assemblage of the parts may be resorted to without departing from the principle of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages, and the right is therefore reserved of making all the changes and modifications which fall within the scope of the invention and the claims made therefor.

In the drawings thus employed, Figure 1 is a transverse section. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation, partially in section. Fig. 4 is a sectional detail view of a modified form of mail-receptacle.

The improved device comprises a casing 10 of any suitable material or of any required size and provided with a swinging cover 11, preferably semicylindrical in form, with semi-

cylindrical ends 12, and hinged at 14 at one side and overlapping the upper edge of the casing 10 when closed to exclude rain or snow, dust, and the like.

The floor or bottom 49 of the casing 10 will preferably be spaced a short distance above the side and end walls, as shown, to form a depending lower rim.

The casing 10 is provided with a swinging door 15, through which to remove the mail-matter, the door being provided with a lock 16 of any suitable kind.

At the rear side the casing 10 is provided with a socket 17 opening downwardly and having an inwardly-extending resilient pawl 18, the socket being provided for engagement with a supporting member 19, having a recess 20 to receive the pawl 18 and prevent the removal of the casing after it has been coupled to the socket.

Extending laterally from the member 19 is a lug 21 for supporting the lower edge of the casing 10 and having spaced vertical spurs 22 for extending in front of the depending rear wall of the casing beneath its floor 49.

The member 19 is connected to any suitable support, such as a post 23, by bolts 24.

Mounted for rotation in the casing 10 is a cylindrical receptacle 25, having a longitudinal aperture 26 along one side through which to insert the mail-matter and with a segment 27 at one side to provide for the free discharge of the mail-matter when the receptacle is overturned, as hereinafter described. The segment will preferably be formed by continuing the material forming the sides of the receptacle inwardly until it intersects the receptacle, thus forming the whole receptacle in three pieces of sheet metal with the sides and segment portion in one single sheet and the ends in two circular disks.

Extending inwardly from the ends of the casing 10 are spaced lugs 28 for supporting brackets 29, the lugs having recesses to receive lateral ribs upon the brackets and the latter secured to the end walls of the casing as by rivets or bolts 31. The brackets are provided, respectively, with bearings 32 to receive trunnions 33 on the ends of the receiver



25 and by which means the latter is supported rotatively.

Connected pivotally by one end at 34 to the ends of the receiver 25 are bars 35, having 5 longitudinal slots 36 in their other ends for slidable engagement with pins 37 on the ends of the cover 11. The bars 35 are curved intermediately to cause them to avoid the bearings 32 of the brackets 29 when the cover is 10 lowered. By this simple means when the cover is lowered the pins 37, traveling to the inner ends of the slots 36 in the bars 35, will rotate the receptacle 25 with its open side downward, and then when the cover is raised 15 the pins 36 when they have moved the full length of the slots in the bars pick up the same and quickly rotate the receptacle with its aperture upward or in position to receive the mail-matter. Thus it will be noted that the 20 cover acts only during the last portion of its stroke both in opening and closing, as the required movement of the receptacle is so much shorter than the required movement of the cover.

25 The receptacle 25 is provided with a stop 38, operating between spaced stops 39 40 on the interior of the casing 10 to limit the throw of the receptacle.

If required, a longitudinal portion 41 may 30 be disposed in the casing between its rear wall and the rear side of the cylindrical receptacle 25 to form a compartment for the reception of papers and parcels which are either too large to be deposited in the receptacle or which it 35 is not deemed necessary to pass through the receptacle into the locked compartment.

A curved guard-strip 42 is disposed in the casing in front of the receptacle 25 to prevent 40 access to the locked compartment through the receptacle when the latter is partially overturned.

Attached to the cover 11, preferably at the rear side, is a socket 52 for supporting a rod 53, having a small signal-flag mounted to rotate 45 on its upper end. The rod 53 is mounted to swing into a vertical position when in use and to be folded down when not in use.

The signal-flag will be held by friction only, as by a spring 55, so that the flag may be set 50 with its broad side toward any direction to denote from a distance the fact of mail having been deposited. For instance, if the box is located at a distance from the house, as in many places in the country, when the carrier

deposits the mail he sets the flag with one side 55 toward the house to notify persons at the house of that fact. Then if the owner of the box deposits mail therein for the carrier to collect he sets the flag with the side exposed to the 60 view of the carrier as he approaches to notify him of that fact. If, however, no mail is in the box the rod 53, with its flag, will be left turned down out of sight. Thus both the carrier and owner of the box may know of the condition 65 of the same from a distance and much valuable time gained thereby, as will be obvious. By this arrangement of parts it is obvious that a very simply-constructed and efficient device of the character described is produced, which 70 may be employed wherever mail is to be deposited by the carrier for the owner of the device or deposited by the owner of the device for collection by the carrier.

The device may be made of any desired size or capacity and of any suitable material. 75

Two of the segments 27 may be employed, as shown in Fig. 4, so that no danger would exist of mail-matter lodging in the receptacle in event of the complete overturning of the 8c same.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. In a letter-box, a casing having a swinging cover, a cylindrical receptacle having a longitudinal opening along one side and mounted 85 for rotation in said casing beneath said cover, curved rods pivotally connected by one end to said receptacle and having longitudinal slots in their other ends for movably engaging pins in said cover, whereby said receptacle will be 90 rotated by said cover at the last portion of its movement in opening and closing.

2. In a letter-box having means for the insertion and removal of the mail-matter, and provided with an external socket, said socket 95 having an inwardly-extending internal resilient locking-pawl, a supporting member for engaging said socket and formed with a recess for receiving said locking-pawl, and a laterally-projecting lug having vertical spaced 100 studs for supporting said casing.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JASPER N. NUTT.

Witnesses:

JOSHUA E. RUSSELL,  
G. E. CYPHERS.